

The Anchor Society



APPEAL NEWS²⁰²⁵

Improving the lives of older people in the **Greater Bristol Area**

Supporting older people in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire to live independently for longer



SUPPORT THE ANCHOR SOCIETY

There are many ways you can support the Anchor Society from donations to leaving a gift in your will. You can find out more on our website www.anchorsociety.org.uk/donation-form

The Anchor Society | Charity Number 1167933 | Unit 1 Eco Studios, Clanage Road, Bristol BS3 2JX | admin@anchorsociety.org.uk | 0117 973 4161



**The Anchor
Society**

A message from Anchor President, Sonia Mills

Thank you for your continued interest in and support for the Anchor Society.

It has been another active and impactful year for the charity. Under the leadership of our CEO, Ellie Collier, the team has grown and evolved. We welcomed Helen Davies as our new Grants Officer, joining Ellie and Mandy Webb, and said a fond farewell to Catherine Watts, who retired after seven dedicated years.

Our focus remains on delivering grants aligned with the Society's core priorities:

- Reducing isolation and social exclusion, and improving wellbeing
- Supporting people to age well and address age-related decline
- Promoting financial planning and employability support

This year, we revised our Emergency Grants process, expanded our referral network, and relaunched Organisational Grants – ensuring support reaches those who need it most.

Demand continues to rise, particularly for Emergency Grants. We are on track to

exceed all previous levels of grant giving – thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Alongside grants, we continue building partnerships that bring joy and connection. Support for Bristol Beacon's music workshops has been uplifting. We also fund initiatives like the Ticket Club at St George's and local groups reducing loneliness.

Another focus has been strengthening advice services. By funding local centres, we've helped older people access the state benefits they're entitled to – this is often life changing.

Looking ahead, we're placing more emphasis on legacy giving. You can read more in the pages ahead – we hope it inspires you to consider how you might help shape Anchor's future.

Thank you for being part of our journey. I hope you feel proud of the difference we're making together.

Warmest regards, Sonia. 

**WAYS TO
DONATE**

- 1. Online** Donate online via our website at www.anchorociety.org.uk
- 2. By BACS – direct transfer or standing order** to account number **42165325**, sort code **40-14-13**, using your name as the payment reference
- 3. By post** You can send cash, a cheque or a CAF voucher directly to us at The Anchor Society Office: **Unit 1, Eco Studios, Clanage Road, Bristol BS3 2JX**. Cheques made payable to **“The Anchor Society”**

The General Picture for over 55s

**NEARLY
8 MILLION**

people live in dangerous homes.

(Source: Centre for Ageing Better)

42% privately rented homes headed by someone **aged 55** and over in the South West are non-decent.

(Source: Centre for Ageing Better)



1.2 MILLION older people experience high levels of anxiety.

(Source: Centre for Ageing Better)

Almost **ONE IN FIVE** pensioners in the UK lives in relative poverty.

(Source: Centre for Ageing Better)

The number of pensioners unable to afford basic necessities grew by **300,000** last year.

(Source: Centre for Ageing Better)



Over 40% have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses.

(Source: Bristol City Council)



ANCHOR SUPPORT

Your donations have supported over **3000** people and funded **107** Emergency Grants in Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

ORGANISATIONAL GRANTS

We have supported **11 organisations** to deliver programmes straight into the **over 55 community**.

Projects have addressed:

- Dementia
- Social isolation and loneliness
- Health improvement
- After stroke support
- Debt and benefits advice

EMERGENCY GRANTS

From July 2024 – June 2025:

19% Boilers and heating

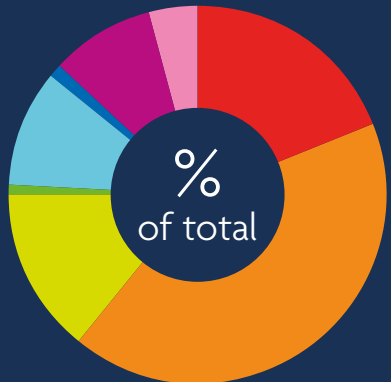
42% Carpets and flooring

14% Beds and mattresses

1% Blinds and curtains

10% Furniture

1% House repairs



9% White goods

4% Mobility equipment/improvements

Working in partnership...

We provide funding to other charities and organisations which share our mission to support older people in the Greater Bristol Area.



We offer one-off and multi-year funding to ensure charities, and their beneficiaries are supported.

In this year's appeal news, we feature two of the many projects we currently support.

Bristol Beacon Older People Programme

Did you know that the Anchor Society funds Bristol Beacon to provide a programme of work to older people? We are proud to have supported this work since 2020 and have pledged a further £15,000 this year.

The Older People Programme helps to transform the lives of older people in the greater Bristol area through a programme

of events focusing on music and dementia, community performances, and music and movement.

In April we were invited to attend a Bristol Beacon Music Club session. It was inspiring and humbling to witness how the power of music enhances the lives of older people living with dementia. This is some of the feedback the Music Club project leaders received.

“The music makes me feel happy, relaxed, joyful at peace...”

“At the last performance, we saw P sing for the first time.

extending our reach

When I told his daughter P was singing, she brought him here again so she could see it for herself”

“The main thing is the friends that I’ve made and the people I’ve gotten to know through music”

The impact of **Bristol Beacon Older People Programme** is far reaching. During 2023/24 it:

- Engaged over **1000 older people**
- Ran **90 workshops**
- Presented **15 concerts** in care homes, memory cafés and community centres through the Mail a Musician programme
- Held **3 large scale concerts / events** for older adults at Bristol Beacon

Thanks to your generous donations Bristol Beacon provides incredible music moments for older people.

Bristol Advice Centres

Anchor is jointly funding a three-year grant coordinated by the Quartet Community Foundation, to support vital work carried out by **St. Paul’s, North Bristol and South Bristol Advice Centres**. Working in partnership with three other charities, our annual grant helps to fund Welfare Benefits Advisers, drop-in sessions and debt management projects.

We also support **Age UK Bristol’s Information and Advice Service** which offers written, telephone and face to face

advice to over 55s.

These advice services offer a lifeline to older people facing financial hardship, helping them navigate welfare benefits, debt management and energy advice. Advisers also give clients the confidence and tools to manage their financial affairs going forward.

This year’s State of Ageing Report by the Centre for Ageing Better, paints a picture of increasing numbers of older people living in poor housing, poverty and poor health and underlines the importance of the advice centres’ work.

“It was always the first thing I thought about when I woke up – how am I going to pay the bills – but that worry is just gone now.”

The impact of **St. Paul’s, North Bristol and South Bristol Advice Centres and Age UK Bristol’s Information and Advice Service** is far reaching. Collectively they have:

- helped over **1377 older people**
- secured **over £2.1m of benefits**
- managed debt of **£1.2m**
- **improved financial wellbeing** and provided older people with the confidence and tools to remain in control of their finances

Help us to help them continue this important work – please donate now. 

Your Support Brings Warmth, Safety, and Dignity

The Anchor Society's Emergency Grants in Action



As part of this annual appeal, we want to show the real difference your generosity makes.

Your donations directly fund our Emergency Grants programme, offering urgent help to older people facing hardship – often when no one else can. Whether it's a broken boiler in winter, unsafe flooring, or essential furniture, these grants provide practical, immediate solutions.

Each year, we award around 100 Emergency Grants, totalling over £100,000. Last year, our grant giving rose by 30%. This year, 19% of our grants have funded boiler replacements, helping vulnerable individuals stay warm through the coldest months. Others cover vital items like carpets, mobility aids and replacement showers – basic but essential needs that support independent living with dignity.

Thanks to your support, our grants deliver fast, practical assistance to older people facing urgent challenges at home.

Here's what some of our grantees have said:

"It was so cold recently, and I had to wrap up in blankets. I can't wait to put the heating on tonight and feel warm. I'm so very grateful."

"With my mobility scooter, I can now go out and be part of my local community again instead of being trapped inside."

"I had nothing for my new home after the breakdown of a long relationship. Your help made it possible to start a new life."

These grants are often life changing. We're proud to work with referral agencies to reach those most in need. With growing demand we're also strengthening partnerships with local utilities and charities to make our funds go further.

Every donation helps make these stories possible. With rising living costs and increasing need, your support matters more than ever.

Please consider a gift to Anchor Society today. Together, we can bring warmth, safety, and dignity to more older people in need. 

Leave a gift that will help care for others

Leave a gift in your Will to the Anchor Society

Leaving a gift in your Will is a powerful statement about your values and the legacy you want to leave behind. It speaks volumes about the people and causes you care about most. After you have made provision for your friends and family, please consider leaving a gift in your Will to the Anchor Society. By including a gift to charity in your Will, you can ensure that your commitment to helping others continues to make a difference, even after you're gone.

Many of us wish we could do more to support the causes we believe in during our lifetimes, but financial commitments can often limit our ability to give. Leaving a gift in your Will allows you to bypass those limitations and make a truly lasting impact. After you've provided for your family and friends, even just 1% of your estate can significantly change the lives of older people facing hardship in your community, providing them with the support they desperately need.

If you'd like to include the Anchor Society in your Will, you can use the details below. Please ask your solicitor to use our full name and details to ensure the gift reaches us. These are:

- Our official name: **Anchor Society CIO**



**Ros Kennedy,
Anchor President in 2019 and
2024, tells us why she plans to
leave a gift to the Anchor Society:**

**"I am extremely proud of what
Anchor does in supporting older
people to live independently
and have pledged to leave a
gift in my Will so that the
Society can continue its
excellent work."**

- Our registered address:
**Bennetts, Barley Wood Stables,
Long Lane, Wrington, BS40 5SA**
- Our registered charity number:
1167933

Telling us about your gift is personal and it's entirely up to you if you wish to share this information. If you do choose to tell us, we'd love to be able to thank you properly and let you know how your gift can help.

Your generosity will ensure that future generations of older people in Bristol receive the vital support they deserve.

For more information on leaving a legacy gift, please contact us at admin@anchorsociety.org.uk 

A Legacy of Compassion and Care

Established in 1769, the **Anchor Society** upholds a longstanding tradition of fundraising through its **President's Appeal**, ensuring the continuation of its vital support services to older people in **Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset** and **South Gloucestershire**.

Thank you to our Past Presidents:

1936 Dr J Odery Symes
1937 A Anthony Skull
1938 Laurence Hosegood
1939 T Thornton Wills
1940 Sir Seymour Williams
1941 Colonel EW Lennard
1942 Ald T H J Underdown
1943 John R Skull
1944 H M C Hosegood
1945 F M Arkle
1946 J H Britton CBE
1947 Brig A L W Newth
CBE, DSO, MC
1948 J P Hitchings CBE
1949 S W Cornwell
1950 E Peter Butler
1951 Ald Percy W Cann
1952 S T Carwardine
1953 C H Pritchard
1954 J B Steadman
1955 A W Bryant
1956 R C Brooks
1957 R H Brown
1958 T F Hewer
1959 T G C Butler OBE
1960 C H Clements
1961 J A Seymour Williams
1962 Robert W Melvin CBE
1963 F D Armstrong
1964 L Ashman Olive
1965 J F Durie

1966 Andrew Breach CBE
1967 Sir John Partridge KBE
1968 H P Lucas
1969 His Grace The Duke of
Beaufort KG, PC, GCVO
1970 W H Needham Cooper
1971 Robert V Cooke
1972 A H G Butler
1973 Christopher Rowe
1974 Peter D Smith
1975 O D F Gardner
1976 D A Newton
1977 P S Hill
1978 Michael Collings
1979 Paul Watling
1980 J G S Young
1981 R A Garrett CBE
1982 J D Ware
1983 Norman Ricketts OBE
1984 R V S Castle
1985 J R Pool MBE
1986 His Honour Judge J A Cox
1987 C S Carwardine
1988 J B Patterson
1989 R A Lalonde
1990 F J Avery
1991 St John Hartnell OBE
1992 G J Clements
1993 R S Brooks
1994 Robert Durie OBE
1995 Paul Rowe

1996 Geoff Matthews
1997 Robert Melvin
1998 D'Arcy Parkes
1999 John Burke OBE
2000 Guy Arnoux
2001 Alan R Reed
2002 Dick Pearce
2003 Sir David Wills Bt
2004 John Cottrell
2005 Nicholas Hooper
2006 Richard Jarratt
2007 Charles Hignett
2008 John Ledbury
2009 Chris Patterson
2010 Michael Bothamley
2011 Dr Jo Gippis OBE
2012 Greg Corrigan
2013 Martin Griffiths
2014 Dr Michael McCaldin
2015 Canon Dr John Savage CBE
2016 Bob Reeves LLD
2017 Dr John Manley
2018 Prof. Sir Steve West
CBE, DL
2019 Dr Ros Kennedy MBE
2020 Francis Montagu
2021 Bill Marshall
2022 Jenny Lacey
2023 Jane Oakland
2024 Dr Ros Kennedy MBE

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